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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

KIMBERLY WILLIAMS, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, Plaintiff, v. NETFLIX, INC.; WAL-MART STORES, INC.; and WALMART.COM USA LLC, Defendants.	Case No. CV-09-0678-BZ **DECLARATION OF LORI S. BRODY IN SUPPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION TO CONSIDER WHETHER CASES SHOULD BE RELATED** DATE: N/A TIME: N/A JUDGE: The Honorable Bernard Zimmerman

Dockets.Justia.com

I, Lori S. Brody, declare as follows:

1. I am a member in good standing of the California State Bar, an attorney at the law firm of Kaplan Fox & Kilsheimer LLP, and counsel of record for Plaintiff in *Kimberly Williams v. Netflix, Inc., et al.,* Case No. 09-cv-0678-BZ. I make this declaration based on my personal knowledge, and if called to testify to the contents, I could and would competently do so.

2. Attached as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of the class action complaint filed on January 2, 2009 in *Resnick, et al. v. Walmart.com USA LLC, et al.,* Case No. 09-cv-0002, and assigned to the Honorable Phyllis J. Hamilton.

3. Attached as Exhibit B is a true and correct copy of the class action complaint filed on February 17, 2009 in *Williams v. Netflix, Inc., et al.,* Case No. 09-cv-0678-BZ.

4. Defendants that have been sued in *Williams* have yet to appear in the action. Local Rule 3-12 requires an Administrative Motion To Consider Whether Cases Should Be Related to be filed promptly. Therefore, a stipulation could not be entered prior to the filing of Plaintiff's Administrative Motion.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing facts are true and correct and that this declaration was executed this 19th day of February, 2009, in San Francisco, California.

/s/ Lori S. Brody
Lori S. Brody

EXHIBIT A

COPY

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ANDREA RESNICK, GARY BUNKER, JOHN HALEY, AMY LATHAM, ERIC ROSLANSKY, and KEVIN SIMPSON, on behalf of themselves and others similarly situated,	Case CV 09 0002
Plaintiffs,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
v.	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
WALMART.COM USA LLC, WAL-MART STORES, INC and NETFLIX, INC.,	MEJ
Defendants.	

NOW COME Plaintiffs, ANDREA RESNICK, GARY BUNKER, JOHN HALEY, AMY LATHAM, ERIC ROSLANSKY, and KEVIN SIMPSON, for their Complaint brought under Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890, 15 U.S.C. §§1-2, and Sections 4 and 16 of the Clayton Antitrust Act of 1914, 15 U.S.C. §§15 & 29, for treble damages and injunctive relief against Defendants Netflix, Inc. ("Netflix"), Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. ("Wal-Mart Stores"), and Walmart.com USA LLC ("Walmart.com").

Based upon personal knowledge, information, and belief, and the investigation of counsel, Plaintiffs allege as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. On or about May 19, 2005, Netflix, Wal-Mart Stores, and Walmart.com, a wholly owned subsidiary of Wal-Mart Stores, entered into an agreement to divide the markets for the sales and online rentals of DVDs in the United States ("Market Division Agreement"), with the purpose and effect of monopolizing and unreasonably restraining trade in at least the online DVD rental market.

2. The meetings that led to the conspiracy began in January 2005, when Reed Hastings, the CEO of Netflix, and John Fleming, then the CEO of Walmart.com, met with each other for dinner to discuss the online DVD rental and DVD sales markets and how they could reach an agreement that would reduce or eliminate competition in those markets. According to Hastings, having "noticed how low Wal-Mart's prices [for DVDs] were," he "called the CEO [of Walmart.com] in January and asked if he could have dinner." Fleming, who reported directly to Wal-Mart Stores' CEO Lee Scott, accepted Hastings' invitation; the two thereafter met and, as a result of the meetings and exchanges that followed, Defendants entered into the contract, combination, and conspiracy alleged herein. At the time of their initial meeting and prior to entering into the Market Division Agreement, Netflix and Walmart.com were direct competitors in renting DVDs online and all three defendants were potential competitors in selling new DVDs to consumers. However, by no later than May 19, 2005, Netflix, Wal-Mart Stores, and Walmart.com entered into an agreement by which Walmart.com would stop competing with Netflix in the online DVD rental business and Netflix would promote the sales of new DVDs by Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com, and not sell new DVDs in competition with them.

3. Wal-Mart Stores actively participated in this conspiracy. This is confirmed by, among

other things, the fact that prior to the announcement of the Market Division Agreement, John Fleming was promoted to Chief Marketing Officer of Wal-Mart Stores. As of the time of the announcement of the Market Division Agreement, Fleming thus was acting in his capacity both as the Chief Marketing Officer of Wal-Mart Stores and the Wal-Mart Stores executive responsible for overseeing the operations of Walmart.com. As Chief Marketing Officer of Wal-Mart Stores, Fleming was responsible for deciding "what the largest, most powerful retailer in history will stock on its shelves, and how much those products will cost. Such decisions, when made at Wal-Mart, can help make or break entire industries."

4. Defendants' conspiracy enabled Netflix to charge its customers higher subscription prices for the rental of DVDs than it otherwise would have. As a result of their contract, combination, and conspiracy as well as Netflix's unlawfully acquired and maintained market and monopoly power, Netflix actually did overcharge Plaintiffs, and millions of other consumers similarly situated, and continues to do so.

5. Under the Market Division Agreement, Netflix, Wal-Mart Stores, and Walmart.com agreed that they would restrain trade and eliminate competition. Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com agreed that Walmart.com would stop competing with Netflix in the online rental market. Netflix agreed that it would not sell new DVDs, but instead would promote the DVD sales of Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com. In agreeing to promote the sale of DVDs by Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com, Netflix provided consideration for the agreement by Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com that Walmart.com would exit the online DVD rental market and simultaneously confirmed to Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com that Netflix would not enter the market to sell new DVDs, as Netflix was well-positioned and otherwise had the unilateral economic incentive to do. Since entering into the Market Division Agreement, neither Wal-Mart Stores nor Walmart.com have rented DVDs online and Netflix has not sold new DVDs. The Market Division Agreement served to entrench and enhance Defendants' dominant market positions and otherwise cause harm to competition, including enabling Netflix to charge higher subscription prices for online DVD rentals than it would have had they not entered into the agreement. Plaintiffs and all other similarly situated consumers in fact paid the higher

subscription prices to Netflix.

6. As alleged below, this case is brought as a class action on behalf of all consumers in the United States who, during the period May 19, 2005, to the present (hereinafter, the "Class Period"), paid a subscription fee to rent DVDs from Netflix. Plaintiffs bring this action under Sections 4 and 16 of the Clayton Antitrust Act to seek redress in the form of treble damages and other relief for their injuries resulting from Defendants' violations of law on behalf of themselves and other similarly injured consumers nationwide and to seek a declaration that the Market Division Agreement is null and void.

PLAINTIFFS

7. ANDREA RESNICK ("Resnick") is an individual consumer who resides in San Francisco, California. During the Class Period, Resnick directly subscribed to Netflix for her personal, non-commercial use. The subscription fees Resnick paid to Netflix for renting DVDs were greater than she would have paid, but for the antitrust violations alleged herein.

8. GARY BUNKER ("Bunker") is an individual consumer who resides in San Angelo, Texas. During the Class Period, Bunker directly subscribed to Netflix for his personal, non-commercial use. The subscription fees Bunker paid to Netflix for renting DVDs were greater than he would have paid, but for the antitrust violations alleged herein.

9. JOHN HALEY ("Haley") is an individual consumer who resides in Fairfax, Virginia. During the Class Period, Haley directly subscribed to Netflix for his personal, non-commercial use. The subscription fees Haley paid to Netflix for renting DVDs were greater than he would have paid, but for the antitrust violations alleged herein.

10. AMY LATHAM ("Latham") is an individual consumer, who resides in Bristow, Virginia. During the Class Period, Latham directly subscribed to Netflix for her personal, non-commercial use. The subscription fees Latham paid for renting DVDs were greater than she would have paid, but for the antitrust violations alleged herein.

11. ERIC ROSLANSKY ("Roslansky") is an individual consumer who resides in Boulder, Colorado. During the Class Period, Roslansky directly subscribed to Netflix for his personal, non-

commercial use. The subscription fees Roslansky paid to Netflix for renting DVDs were greater than he would have paid, but for the antitrust violations alleged herein.

12. KEVIN SIMPSON ("Simpson") is an individual consumer who resides in Washington, DC. During the Class Period, Simpson directly subscribed to Netflix for his personal, non-commercial use. The subscription fees Simpson paid to Netflix for renting DVDs were greater than he would have paid, but for the antitrust violations alleged herein.

DEFENDANTS

NETFLIX

13. Defendant Netflix is a Delaware corporation headquartered at 100 Winchester Circle, Los Gatos, California, 95032. Netflix is publicly traded on the NASDAQ under the symbol NFLX. Its revenues earned from engaging in interstate commerce exceed $1 Billion annually. Through its website, www.netflix.com, Netflix rents DVDs directly to consumers nationwide by charging monthly subscription fees, which entitle customers to rent DVDs pursuant to various subscription plans. Netflix has possessed a market share of at least 75% of the Online DVD Rental Market in the United States, as defined herein, at all times during the Class Period.

WAL-MART

14. **Wal-Mart Stores.** Defendant Wal-Mart Stores is the largest retailer in the United States. Wal-Mart Stores is a Delaware corporation headquartered at 702 S.W. 8th Street, Bentonville, Arkansas, 72716. Wal-Mart Stores is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol WMT. Its revenues earned from engaging in interstate and foreign commerce approach $400 Billion annually. Through its retail stores and its website, www.walmart.com, Wal-Mart Stores sells DVDs directly to consumers nationwide. Wal-Mart Stores sells far more DVDs than any other retailer in the United States, accounting for about 40% of all new DVDs sold to consumers domestically. Prior to the Market Division Agreement, Wal-Mart Stores' wholly-owned subsidiary Walmart.com competed with Netflix in the Online DVD Rental Market through the "Walmart DVD Rentals" service, which was available on www.walmart.com.

15. **Walmart.com.** Defendant Walmart.com is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Wal-Mart Stores. Walmart.com is a Delaware company with its headquarters at 7000 Marina Boulevard, Brisbane, California, 94005. It is the online component of Wal-Mart Stores' retail empire that is the leading seller of new DVDs in the United States. Prior to the conspiracy alleged herein, Walmart.com was also a major competitor of Netflix in the Online DVD Rental Market through the "Walmart DVD Rentals" service, which was available on www.walmart.com. While its financials are not publicly reported by Wal-Mart Stores, Walmart.com is ranked as the 14th largest online retailer in the United States. Through the website, www.walmart.com, Walmart.com sells DVDs directly to consumers nationwide. Consumers who purchase DVDs via www.walmart.com may have them either mailed or otherwise delivered to them directly, or may pick them up at a Wal-Mart Stores retail location via Walmart.com's and Wal-Mart Stores' "Site to Store" program.

16. **Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com.** Walmart.com and Wal-Mart Stores are, in essence, completely integrated and operated as a single commercial enterprise and hold themselves out to the public as such, by which Walmart.com is an internet sales channel for Wal-Mart Stores, rather than being an independent business entity. Wal-Mart Stores is the registrant of the www.walmart.com domain name that is used to sell products and services by Walmart.com. Likewise, Wal-Mart Stores is the registrant of www.walmartdvdrentals.com. Wal-Mart Stores' Chief Marketing Officer John Fleming has explained the relationship between Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com as follows: "Wal-Mart Stores set up Walmart.com as a separate company with some outside investors, but within six months Wal-Mart Stores bought back the outside interest and Walmart.com; Walmart.com now serves as a 'marketing channel' for Wal-Mart Stores."

17. **Wal-Mart Stores' Active Participation in the Conspiracy.** Wal-Mart Stores was actively involved in the conspiracy alleged herein, as alleged more specifically below. For purposes of these allegations, both Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com are active participants in the conspiracy and each is liable for the unlawful conduct alleged herein, with each, among other things, participating in, and benefiting from, the Market Division Agreement. Moreover, Wal-Mart Stores directed, ratified, approved, supported, and otherwise aided and abetted Walmart.com's violations of law.

18. Wal-Mart Stores had a strong incentive to accomplish the Market Division Agreement. In addition to its interests as the 100% owner of Walmart.com, Wal-Mart Stores had further incentive to enter into this Agreement, since it obtains substantial revenues from sales of new DVDs, as well as store traffic resulting in the sales of other goods, which would have been threatened by Netflix's entry into new DVD sales, and which were enhanced by Netflix's promotion of Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com through the Market Division Agreement. In a letter submitted to this Court in connection with a prior antitrust case brought against Netflix by other plaintiffs for other alleged violations of law, an assistant general counsel of Wal-Mart Stores, referring specifically to Wal-Mart Stores, wrote of "Wal-Mart's decision to discontinue renting DVDs." Moreover, it was Wal-Mart Stores that announced in part the Market Division Agreement, which identifies Wal-Mart Stores, in the "About" section of the press release. The announcement quoted John Fleming, who was then Chief Marketing Officer of Wal-Mart Stores, regarding the Agreement. It explained that Walmart.com's DVD sales are in fact Wal-Mart Stores' "online movie sales business," and that, more generally, Wal-Mart Stores' "[o]nline merchandise sales are available at www.walmart.com."

19. Whenever reference is made in this Complaint to a statement or transaction of any corporation or entity, the allegation means that the corporation or entity acted by or through its directors, members, partners, officers, employees, affiliates, or agents, while engaged in the management, direction, control, or conduct of the corporation's or entity's business and acting within its scope of authority.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

20. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1331 & 1337 and 15 U.S.C. §§1-2, 15 & 26.

21. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§15, 22 & 26 and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b), (c) & (d), because at all times relevant to the Complaint: (a) Defendants transacted business, were found, or acted through subsidiaries or agents present in this District; (b) a substantial part of Plaintiffs' claims occurred in this District; and (c) a substantial portion of the affected interstate trade and commerce described below has been carried out in this District.

22. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because, *inter alia*, each of the Defendants is headquartered in this State or has transacted business; maintained continuous and systemic contacts; purposefully availed itself of the benefits of doing business; and committed acts in furtherance of the alleged conspiracy in this State.

INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT

23. Pursuant to Civil L.R. 3-2, this case should be assigned to the San Francisco Division because a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claims occurred within this division. Plaintiff Andrea Resnick resides in San Francisco County and Defendant Walmart.com is headquarted in San Mateo County.

INTERSTATE TRADE AND COMMERCE

24. Defendants' conduct has taken place within the flow of, and substantially affected the interstate commerce of, the United States. By way of example, Defendants have sold and/or rented DVDs throughout the United States, involving hundreds of millions or billions of dollars in interstate commerce, and used the instrumentalities of interstate commerce, including interstate wires and the U.S. mail, to sell and/or to rent DVDs throughout the United States.

RELEVANT MARKET

25. Defendants' market allocation conspiracy is *per se* illegal and requires no allegation of market definition.

26. For those claims that may require market definition, the Relevant Market for purposes of these allegations during the Class Period at least is: the Online DVD Rental Market in the United States.

27. "DVD," as defined herein, refers to a Digital Video Disc or Blu-ray Disc containing commercially recorded entertainment programs for personal viewing. DVDs are the primary medium by which movies and other recorded entertainment are distributed in the United States. Revenues on DVDs far exceed those generated from box office receipts. In addition, DVDs have become a particularly lucrative means for the distribution of previously aired television programs, surpassing

even television syndication rights as a revenue stream in many instances. As defined herein, "DVD" does not refer to blank Digital Video Discs, which are used to store or record data.

28. The relevant market is for the rental of DVDs online by subscription for delivery by mail ("Online DVD Rental Market"). At all relevant times, there have been no reasonably interchangeable substitutes for this service, which is differentiated, from both the demand and the supply side, from other methods of DVD distribution channels, as well as other methods of entertainment content delivery.

29. In the Online DVD Rental Market, for a monthly subscription fee, a consumer may rent DVDs from an online service provider, such as Netflix, Blockbuster Online, or (prior to May 19, 2005) Walmart DVD Rentals. There are no late fees and no due dates, but, within any given plan, the consumer pays the subscription fee regardless of how many DVDs he or she rents per month. Thus, even a consumer who does not rent a DVD for months still is charged the subscription fee; Netflix CEO Reed Hastings calls this the "gym membership effect."

30. To rent DVDs, consumers fill out a rental "queue" in their online profile, listing in order of preference the DVDs they wish to rent. The DVDs are then sent by the provider to the consumer's home via U.S. mail. To return the DVD and receive the next DVD in the queue, the consumer inserts the DVD in a prepaid envelope provided with the rental and mails it back; the service provider then mails the next movie on the list to the consumer. The library of titles available from online service providers has grown over time, now ranging near 100,000 DVDs—often twenty to one-hundred times the selection of titles stocked (not to mention available) at any single video rental store.

31. From the consumer's perspective, online DVD rentals are a differentiated service that is not reasonably interchangeable with traditional bricks-and-mortar video rental. In traditional video rental from physical stores, consumers drive to or otherwise arrive at the store, find (or do not find) what they are looking for, and pay on a per-DVD basis for their selection(s). After the designated rental period of one or more days, usually depending upon the release date of the DVD, the consumer returns his selection or potentially incurs late fees. During the Class Period as alleged herein, these late fees have

accounted for as much as 20% of the revenues in traditional video rental stores; there are no late fees or due dates in the Online DVD Rental Market.

32. There are numerous other practical indicia of the Online DVD Rental Market being a relevant product market, distinct from other forms of DVD rental, including:

a. **Price Competition.** No direct price competition exists between online rental and other forms of DVD rental, whether in-store, kiosk, or video downloading, which are not reasonably interchangeable with online DVD rental. For example, online DVD rentals generally are priced on a monthly subscription basis. Within any given plan, the subscription rate is independent of the number of DVDs the customer actually rents in a month. In-store DVD rentals, kiosks, and downloading generally are priced on a pay-per-view basis. Also, changes in the price of online rentals do not closely track changes in the price of in-store rentals. The pricing of online rentals is generally nationwide in scope and is not affected by local in-store prices and competition. As a result, the pricing of online rentals would generally be the same to a customer, regardless of whether the nearest rental store is two minutes or two hours away. Online rentals generally offer additional services, such as movie reviews, customer-specific recommendations based on viewing and preference history, and other metrics of popularity. The cross-elasticity of demand between these products is such that a small but significant non transitory increase in price ("SSNIP") would not cause consumers to switch from online rental to in-store rental or any other arguable method of DVD distribution and *vice versa*.

b. **Functional Differences.** Online rentals fundamentally differ from in-store rentals in that (1) they do not require travel to a store (including a second trip to return the DVD and potentially multiple trips if the store does not have the DVD in stock at the right time), (2) are available to anyone with a postal address, regardless of proximity to a store, (3) are primarily subscription-based services, and (4) provide a much wider selection of titles than can a brick-and-mortar store. For these reasons, among others, Online and in-store DVD rentals are not reasonably interchangeable. Likewise, other modes of content distribution, such as kiosk, video-on-demand, and downloading, among other forms, are not reasonably interchangeable with online DVD rentals for a number of reasons, including relative selection and convenience for consumers, pricing, as well as, from the supply perspective, licensing considerations and technological limitations.

c. **Public and Industry Perceptions.** The online rental market is recognized as a distinct market by the public and the industry, including by Defendants.

d. **Admissions.** By word and deed, Defendants have confirmed and recognized the existence of a discrete online rental market. Admissions of a discrete online rental market abound from Netflix and Walmart.com and Wal-Mart Stores executives alike, including Hastings and Fleming. Very recently, a Netflix executive told the Wall Street Journal that other types of rental services, such as kiosk and in-store rentals, do not present a direct competitive threat to Netflix. That same executive acknowledged that while video downloads may be a competitive force in the future, DVD will be the dominant medium for years to come, making the entry of this technology not timely enough to be considered a competitive force in the relevant market. Netflix CEO Reed Hastings has observed that the competitive threat of internet downloading to online DVD rental during the Class Period is like that of hydrogen powered cars to gasoline powered cars—inconsequential for many years to come. He has further explained that DVDs will be the dominant medium for movies for perhaps as long as the gasoline engine.

33. Online DVD rentals are also a separate market from DVD sales. The pricing of DVD sales and online DVD rentals is very different. For example, the price to buy a new DVD depends heavily on how popular it is, including whether it is a new release or how successful the title originally was at the box office or on television. By contrast, online DVD renters generally charge based on a subscription fee, regardless of whether the consumer is renting popular or obscure DVDs. The

industry and the public perceive online DVD rentals as separate from DVD sales, whether in-store or online. The factors motivating a consumer to buy a DVD are different from those that lead to renting a DVD. The former generally applies to DVDs that the consumer intends to view (either personally, or their family or friends) numerous times. The latter generally applies to DVDs that the consumer intends to view once and then return. DVDs sold at retail have other distinguishing characteristics, such as packaging and special features not available with rentals, which are delivered unadorned in envelopes. In addition, the fact of whether a DVD is new or used is not an issue in rental, but is a significant factor in sales, for used DVDs are sold at a significant discount to their new counterparts, due to them being relatively less desirable to consumers. DVD sales and online rentals also are not reasonably interchangeable for consumers intending to collect physical DVDs or to give a DVD as a gift. The cross-elasticity of demand between these products is such that a SSNIP would not cause consumers to switch from online renting to purchasing DVDs and *vice versa*.

34. The Geographic Market for the Online DVD Rental Market is the United States. The practical reality is that, among other things, shipping costs and transglobal differences in DVD data encoding make it neither practical nor feasible for entities located in other countries to rent DVDs to U.S. consumers.

MARKET AND MONOPOLY POWER

35. At all relevant times, Netflix dominated the Online DVD Rental Market. Netflix has an approximate market share of 75% in the Online DVD Rental Market, and is far and away the market leader in the Online DVD Rental Market. As a result of this market share, Netflix has had and continues to have market and monopoly power in the Online DVD Rental Market; it has the power to control prices or exclude competition in this Relevant Market.

36. Netflix's market and monopoly power is strengthened by the significant barriers to entry in this market. There have been no significant market entrants in the more than three years since announcement of the Market Division Agreement, which increased those barriers. Online DVD rental is highly capital intensive. A firm must operate on a large scale to be successful. It requires the possession of a significant number of shipping facilities strategically located throughout the United

States to ensure timely delivery. It also requires stocking an extensive inventory of DVDs to maintain the selection of titles that consumers demand. As Netflix CEO Reed Hastings has observed, "When you think about the barriers to entry to this business, it is subtle because it appears easy. A kid can open a website. But the barriers to profitability are very large."

37. Since the implementation of the Market Division Agreement, the Online DVD Rental Market has been overwhelmingly comprised of only two firms: Netflix and Blockbuster, which possesses nearly all of the remaining 25% of the Online DVD Rental Market that Netflix does not control. A few minor firms have shares of less than 1-2% of the market. During fiscal years 2005-2007 combined, Netflix earned nearly $4 Billion in revenues and $1.3 Billion in gross profit from renting DVDs to consumers—a margin of more than 33%. As a result of Netflix's abuse of its monopoly power alleged herein, its subscription fees have been higher than they otherwise would have been.

38. Wal-Mart Stores and its wholly-owned subsidiary Walmart.com combined have an industry-leading 40% of domestic DVD retail sales. During fiscal years 2005-2008 combined, they earned revenues in excess of $25 Billion by selling DVDs to consumers. Both Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com benefit from the Market Division Agreement.

39. Further evidence of Netflix's market and monopoly power is reflected in the anticompetitive effects alleged herein.

THE ILLEGAL AGREEMENT

40. **Pre-Agreement Competition in the Online DVD Rental Market.** In early 2005, Netflix was coming off a year in which competition was growing and its stock price had dropped precipitously. It faced increasing competition from Walmart DVD Rentals and from Blockbuster Online, the latter of which had just entered the online rental market.

41. By mid-2004, Netflix was charging $21.99 for its most popular subscription rental plan. Blockbuster entered the online market in earnest in August, at first charging $19.99 but then reducing its price in November to $17.49 for its similar plan. After that, the Walmart DVD Rentals rate was reduced from $18.86 to $17.36. In the wake of these price cuts, Netflix reduced its prices by nearly

20% (to $17.99 per month) soon thereafter. After that, Blockbuster further decreased its price to $14.99—20% below Netflix's already reduced price and more than 40% below the price Netflix was charging just months earlier.

42. Meanwhile, Wal-Mart Stores and its wholly-owned subsidiary Walmart.com, which had established themselves as the leader in new DVD sales, were facing increasing competition from in-store and online channels of distribution in new DVD sales, including competition from Amazon.com. At the time, Netflix was a significant potential additional competitor, since it had a subscriber base of millions of customers who were known in the industry to be prolific DVD buyers, and the sales and profits of Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com stood to suffer if Netflix began selling new DVDs to these customers. Conversely, Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com stood to gain significant additional sales and profits and to gain further market share in the sale of new DVDs if these customers were to make their purchases of new DVDs from them instead.

43. **The Walmart Price Cut.** On January 7, 2005, Walmart DVD Rentals dropped the price on its most popular DVD rental plan significantly—to $12.97 per month—creating further price pressure on Netflix to reduce its DVD rental prices. In order to respond to the increased competition, Netflix would have been forced to lower its prices and thereby reduce its profits.

44. **The January Dinner Meeting.** Faced with this increasing competition, Reed Hastings, the Chairman and CEO of Netflix, called John Fleming, then the CEO of Walmart.com, and invited him to dinner to discuss the their companies' DVD sales and rentals businesses. Fleming accepted the invitation; the two met together in January 2005 and embarked upon a scheme that would result in the contract combination, and conspiracy, and agreement reflected in the Market Division Agreement.

45. **Hastings' Subsequent "Prediction."** On May 5, 2005, in Netflix's First Quarter earnings call with financial analysts, held after the January dinner but only two weeks prior to the public announcement of the Market Division Agreement, Hastings made plain the motive for Netflix to conspire with Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com:

> In terms of profitability over the coming years, the key issue is the number of major competitors. If there are only two major players, Blockbuster and Netflix, the profitability may be substantial like other two-firm entertainment markets. If, on the other hand, Amazon, Wal-Mart, Blockbuster and Netflix are all major competitors in

> online rental, then the profits would likely be small.

Hastings went on to "predict" on that conference call:

> [T]he likely case is [that] online rental becomes a two-firm market over the coming years.

46. **The Public Announcement.** On May 19, 2005, shortly after Fleming had been promoted to Chief Marketing Officer of Wal-Mart Stores, Defendants issued a joint press release that revealed the existence of the Market Division Agreement, by which they unlawfully divided and allocated the markets for DVD sales and rentals, and did, in fact, create the two-firm market that Hastings sought.

47. **The Media's Reaction.** The news of the agreement was featured in a number of newspapers and other publications, in articles with aptly colorful titles, such as:

- "Wal-Mart and Netflix Scratch Each Other's Backs,"
- "Truce in DVD-Rental Wars,"
- "Wal-Mart and Netflix: An Alliance," and
- "Wal-Mart Loves Netflix: And Vice-Versa."

48. **The Execution.** Beginning on May 19, 2005, Walmart.com, as agreed, did in fact exit the online rental business. Walmart.com announced to all of the subscribers to "Walmart DVD Rentals" that it was exiting the online DVD rental business and that those subscribers could be transferred to Netflix. Walmart.com took additional steps to affirmatively implement the Market Division Agreement by adding a prominently placed link to the Netflix website to encourage customers to transfer their subscriptions to Netflix. Since the date of their joint announcement on May 19, 2005 (apart from the 30 days that Walmart.com used to wind down its existing online rental business), neither Walmart.com nor Wal-Mart Stores has participated in the Online DVD Rental Market, and Netflix has not sold new DVDs.

49. As a result of the Market Division Agreement, downward pricing pressure from Walmart.com was eliminated and the Online DVD Rental Market was reduced to two competitors. Absent the Market Division Agreement, Netflix would have lowered its prices no later than May 19, 2005. As a result of the elimination of a competitor in this Relevant Market, Blockbuster was able to

raise its subscription price in July to match that of Netflix, from $14.99 per month to $17.99 per month, in accord with Hastings' expectation that "[i]f there are only two major players, Blockbuster and Netflix, the profitability may be substantial like other two-firm entertainment markets." In Netflix's next earnings call, on August 8, 2005, Hastings boasted:

> Last quarter we said online rental was shaping up to be a two-player market, and that is indeed what is happening.

50. The Market Division Agreement was not in the independent self-interest of Wal-Mart Stores, Walmart.com, or Netflix. Neither Wal-Mart Stores nor Walmart.com would have wanted Walmart.com to withdraw from the online rental market, encourage its subscribers to be transferred to Netflix, and promote Netflix's rental business absent substantial consideration from Netflix, such as an agreement not to compete for new DVD retail sales. But for the Market Division Agreement, Walmart.com would not have exited the Online DVD Rental Market when it did. Likewise, Netflix would not have foreclosed its opportunity to sell DVDs to its millions of subscribers—a base of customers who purchase on average 25 DVDs per year each—and would not have promoted new DVD sales by Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com, rather than its own sales, absent an agreement from them not to compete against Netflix's online rental business.

ANTICOMPETITIVE EFFECTS

51. Defendants' illegal acts and practices have caused anticompetitive effects in the Online DVD Rental Market. The subscription fees charged by Netflix to Plaintiffs, as well as the other members of the Class, were maintained at artificially high and supracompetitive levels. Plaintiffs and the other members of the Class paid higher subscription prices to Netflix than they otherwise would have paid.

52. The Market Division Agreement (i) eliminated one of only three significant competitors in the Relevant Market, (ii) eliminated competition between Defendants, and (iii) enabled Netflix to acquire market power and also acquire and maintain monopoly power in the Relevant Market. The Market Division Agreement has enabled Netflix to implement monopolistic and supracompetitive pricing in the Relevant Market.

53. The Market Division Agreement and Defendants' acts and practices in furtherance thereof have no procompetitive benefits. They do not create information that consumers need, nor do they create new or better products or services. Rather, they have served to reinforce the true anticompetitive nature of the Market Division Agreement by assuring, for example, that Walmart.com not only withdrew from the Online DVD Rental Market, but further enhanced Netflix's position in that market. Even if there were any such benefits, they would not outweigh any of the anticompetitive effects described herein, and, in any event, could be achieved by less restrictive means.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

54. Plaintiffs bring this action on their own behalf and as class actions under Rules 23(a), 23(b)(2), and 23 (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of all members of the Class, as defined herein.

55. Bunker, Haley, Latham, Resnick, Roslansky, and Simpson bring this action on behalf of themselves and the members of the Class, defined as comprising:

> Any person in the United States that paid a subscription fee to Netflix to rent DVDs, on or after May 19, 2005 up to the present. Excluded from the Class are government entities, Defendants, their co-conspirators and their representatives, parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates.

56. The Class numbers in the millions, the exact number and identities of the members being known by Defendants.

57. The Class is so numerous and geographically dispersed that joinder of all members is impracticable.

58. There are questions of law and fact common to the Class and the members thereof. These common questions relate to the existence of the conspiracy alleged, and to the type and common pattern of injuries sustained as a result thereof. The questions include, but are not limited to:

a. Whether Defendants engaged in a contract, combination, or conspiracy to allocate markets;

b. Whether Defendants unreasonably restrained trade in the Online DVD Rental Market;

c. Whether Defendants had the specific intent for Netflix to monopolize the Online DVD Rental Market;

d. The nature and character of the acts performed by Defendants in the furtherance of the alleged contract, combination, and conspiracy;

e. Whether the alleged contract, combination, and conspiracy violated Section 1 of the Sherman Act;

f. Whether the alleged contract, combination, and conspiracy violated Section 2 of the Sherman Act;

g. The anticompetitive effects of Defendants' violations of law;

h. Whether Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole; and

i. Whether the conduct of Defendants, as alleged in this Complaint, caused Netflix subscription fees to be higher than they otherwise would have been and thereby caused injury to the business and property of Plaintiffs and other members of the Class.

59. The questions of law and fact common to the members of the Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, including the legal and factual issues relating to liability and damages.

60. Bunker, Haley, Latham, Resnick, Roslansky, and Simpson are members of the Class. Their claims are typical of the claims of other members of the Class, and they will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class. Their interests are aligned with, and not antagonistic to, those of the other members of the Class.

61. Plaintiffs are represented by competent counsel experienced in class action antitrust litigation.

62. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Class treatment will permit the adjudication of relatively small claims by members of the Class who otherwise could not afford to litigate antitrust claims such as are asserted in this Complaint. This class action presents no difficulties of management that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

ANTITRUST INJURY AND STANDING

63. During the Class Period, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have directly paid monthly DVD subscription fees to Netflix in the United States, and many continue to do so.

64. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have suffered, and many continue to suffer, injury of the type that the antitrust laws are designed to punish and prevent. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have paid, and many continue to pay, more to subscribe to Netflix than they would have, absent the Market Division Agreement. As a direct and proximate result of the unreasonable restraint of trade and market and monopoly power created by the Market Division Agreement, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class were, and many continue to be, injured and financially damaged in their businesses and property, in amounts that are not presently determined. As the direct victims of Defendants' antitrust violations, Plaintiffs are the most efficient enforcers of the antitrust claims made herein.

COUNT ONE

SHERMAN ACT SECTION ONE (15 U.S.C. §1)
Illegal Market Division
(Against All Defendants)

65. Plaintiffs reallege each allegation set forth above, as if fully set forth herein.

66. Defendants have entered into a *per se* illegal market division agreement, in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §1. Even if evaluated under the Rule of Reason, the Market Division Agreement is an unreasonable restraint of trade in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §1.

67. Prior to and at the time of the agreement, Netflix and Walmart.com were actual competitors in the Online DVD Rental Market. In addition, Netflix, on the one hand, and Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com, on the other hand, were potential competitors in new DVD sales. Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com were actual participants and Netflix was a potential participant, with the means and economic incentive to sell new DVDs—in the absence of the Market Division Agreement.

68. Defendants shared a conscious commitment to a common scheme designed to achieve the unlawful objective of dividing the markets for online DVD rentals and new DVD sales. The Market

Division Agreement allocated the Online DVD Rental Market to Netflix, with Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com agreeing not to compete in that Relevant Market. The agreement also allocated new DVD sales to Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com, with Netflix agreeing to refrain from selling new DVDs in competition with them. In addition to explicitly or *de facto* agreeing not to sell new DVDs, Netflix also obtained the Market Division Agreement by providing potentially valuable promotion to Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com. In so doing, Netflix provided significant consideration to Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com for their agreement that Walmart.com would withdraw from, and both Walmart.com and Wal-Mart Stores would not compete in, the Online DVD Rental Market.

69. The Market Division Agreement has created significant anticompetitive effects and no pro-competitive benefits. It eliminated competition in the Relevant Market, raising prices paid by consumers. To the extent that there are any procompetitive benefits at all resulting from the agreement, they would not outweigh the agreement's anticompetitive effects. In any event, to the extent that there were any, they could have been achieved by less restrictive means.

70. As a result of this violation of law, Netflix's subscription prices charged to, and paid by, Plaintiffs and the Class are, and have been, higher than they otherwise would have been.

COUNT TWO

SHERMAN ACT SECTION TWO (15 U.S.C. §2)
Monopolization of Online DVD Rental Market
(Against Netflix)

71. Plaintiffs reallege each allegation set forth above, as if fully set forth herein.

72. Netflix has monopoly power in the Online DVD Rental Market.

73. Netflix willfully acquired and maintained its monopoly in the Online DVD Rental Market by its acts and practices described herein, including by executing, implementing, and otherwise complying with the Market Division Agreement, in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §2.

74. As a result of this violation of law, Netflix's subscription prices charged to, and paid by, Plaintiffs and the Class are, and have been, higher than they otherwise would have been.

COUNT THREE

SHERMAN ACT SECTION TWO (15 U.S.C. §2)
Attempt to Monopolize Online DVD Rental Market
(Against Netflix)

75. Plaintiffs reallege each allegation set forth above, as if fully set forth herein.

76. If Netflix does not already have monopoly power, then Netflix has a dangerous probability of success in achieving monopoly power in the Online DVD Rental Market.

77. With the specific intent to achieve a monopoly, Netflix, by its acts and practices described herein, including by executing, implementing, and otherwise complying with the Market Division Agreement, has attempted to monopolize the Online DVD Rental Market, in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §2.

78. As a result of this violation of law, Netflix's subscription prices charged to, and paid by, Plaintiffs and the Class are, and have been, higher than they otherwise would have been.

COUNT FOUR

SHERMAN ACT SECTION TWO (15 U.S.C. §2)
Conspiracy to Monopolize Online DVD Rental Market
(Against All Defendants)

79. Plaintiffs reallege each allegation set forth above, as if fully set forth herein.

80. Defendants shared a conscious commitment to a common scheme designed to achieve the unlawful objective of the monopolization of the Online DVD Rental Market. Prior to and at the time of the agreement, Netflix and Walmart.com were actual competitors in the Online DVD Rental Market. Defendants conspired with the specific intent, knowledge and purpose that their anticompetitive agreement would result in Netflix willfully acquiring and maintaining a monopoly in the Relevant Market. Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com knew that the natural and probable consequence of the Market Division Agreement would be the monopolization of the Relevant Market by Netflix. Defendants have committed overt acts in furtherance of their conspiracy, including entering into, complying with, and implementing the Market Division Agreement, in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §2.

81. As a result of this violation of law, Netflix's subscription prices charged to, and paid by,

Plaintiffs and the Class are, and have been, higher than they otherwise would have been.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that:

A. The Court determine that this action may be maintained as a class action under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that Plaintiffs be appointed class representatives, and that Plaintiffs' counsel be appointed as counsel for the Class.

B. Defendants be adjudged to violate Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890, 15 U.S.C. §§1-2.

C. The Court declare the Market Division Agreement between Defendants announced May 19, 2005, to be unlawful and null and void.

D. Judgment be entered for Plaintiffs and the members of the Class against Defendants, jointly and severally, for three times the amount of damages sustained by Plaintiff and the Class, under Section 4 of the Clayton Antitrust Act of 1914, 15 U.S.C. §15, together with the costs of the action, including reasonable attorneys' fees, and such other relief as is appropriate.

E. Defendants, their affiliates, successors, transferees, assignees, and the officers, directors, partners, agents and employees thereof, and all other persons acting or claiming to act on their behalf, be permanently enjoined and restrained from, in any manner, continuing, maintaining or renewing the contract, combination or conspiracy alleged herein, or from engaging in any other contract, combination or conspiracy having similar purpose or effect, and from adopting or following any practice, plan, program or device having a similar purpose or effect, pursuant to Section 16 of the Clayton Antitrust Act of 1914, 15 U.S.C. §29.

F. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have such other, further, and different relief as the case may require and the Court may deem just and proper under the circumstances.

JURY DEMAND

Pursuant to Rule 38(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs demand a jury trial of all issues triable by jury.

Dated: January 2, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By: [signature]

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BZ

KIMBERLY WILLIAMS, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, Plaintiff, v. NETFLIX, INC.; WAL-MART STORES, INC.; and WALMART.COM USA LLC, Defendants.	Civil Action No. CV 09 0678 **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT WITH JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

Plaintiff, by her attorneys, brings this civil action on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated under the federal antitrust laws, Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §§1-2, and Sections 4 and 16 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 15 and 26, to recover treble damages, injunctive relief, and the costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees, for the injuries to Plaintiff and members of the proposed Class they represent resulting from Defendants' violations of the federal antitrust laws. The allegations set forth below are based upon personal knowledge with respect to Plaintiff's own acts and information and belief with respect to all other matters.

NATURE OF CLAIMS

1. This antitrust class action arises out of a conspiracy among Defendants Netflix, Wal-Mart Stores, and Walmart.com to divide the markets for the sales and online rentals of DVDs in the United States in order to avoid competition, monopolize, and illegally restrain trade in at least the Online DVD Rental Market (defined *infra*).

2. Defendants entered into an agreement to divide the markets for the sales and online rentals of DVDs in the United States ("Market Division Agreement") on or about May 19, 2005.

3. Prior to the Market Division Agreement, Defendants competed in the Online DVD Rental Market.

4. Under the Market Division Agreement, Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com agreed to exit the Online DVD Rental Market in order to stop competing with Netflix in that market, and in return, Netflix agreed to not enter into the new DVD sales market and instead promote the DVD sales of Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com.

5. Netflix's agreement not to sell new DVDs was comparable and sufficient consideration for the agreement, as Netflix had the capacity and economic incentive to engage in both the Online DVD Rental Market and the new DVD sales market and thereby create significant competition in the new DVD sales market for Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com.

6. Defendants' Market Division Agreement effectively eliminated competition in the Online DVD Rental Market and enabled Netflix to charge its subscribers higher subscription prices for the online rental of DVDs than it otherwise would have.

7. As a result of Defendants' contract, combination, and conspiracy, as well as Netflix's unlawfully acquired and maintained market and monopoly power, Netflix actually did (and continues to) overcharge Plaintiff, and millions of other consumers similarly situated, for the online rental of DVDs.

8. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of herself and other similarly situated consumers in the United States who paid a subscription fee to rent DVDs from Netflix at any time during the period from May 19, 2005 to the present (hereinafter, the "Class Period").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

9. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337(a) and Sections 4 and 16 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 15 and 26.

10. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §§ 15, 22 and 26 and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c) because during the Class Period at least two of the defendants resided, transacted business, were found, or had agents in this district; and because a substantial portion of the affected interstate trade and commerce described herein has been carried out in this district; and because each Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in this district.

11. This court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because each transacts business and maintains continuous and systemic contacts in this state, and has availed itself of the benefits of doing business in this state, and has committed acts to further the alleged conspiracy in this state.

PARTIES

12. Plaintiff Kimberly Williams ("Williams") is an individual consumer who resides in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. During the Class Period, Williams subscribed directly to Netflix for her personal, noncommercial use and was injured by reason of the antitrust violations alleged herein.

13. Defendant Netflix is a Delaware corporation headquartered at 100 Winchester Circle, Los Gatos, California 95032. Netflix rents DVDs directly to consumers nationwide through its website, www.netflix.com, by charging monthly subscription fees and offering various subscription plans. Since starting its online DVD rental business in 1999, Netflix's total subscribers have grown at a compound annual rate of 70%, reaching about ten million in 2007. Its annual revenues from engaging in interstate commerce more than doubled between 2004 and 2007, and exceeded $1.2

billion in 2007. At all times during the Class Period, Netflix has possessed a market share of at least 75% of the United States Online DVD Rental Market, as that market is defined herein. Netflix is publicly traded on the NASDAQ under the symbol NFLX.

14. Defendant Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. is a Delaware corporation headquartered at 702 S.W. 8th Street, Bentonville, Arkansas 72716. Wal-Mart Stores is the largest retailer in the United States, with annual revenues of approximately $400 billion. Wal-Mart Stores is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol WMT. Through its retail stores and its website, www.walmart.com, Wal-Mart Stores sells DVDs directly to consumers nationwide. Wal-Mart Stores sells far more DVDs than any other retailer in the United States, accounting for about 40% of all new DVDs sold to consumers domestically. Prior to the Market Division Agreement as specified herein, Walmart.com, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Wal-Mart Stores, was a major competitor of Netflix in the Online DVD Rental Market through the "Walmart DVD Rentals" service, which was available on www.walmart.com.

15. Defendant Walmart.com USA LLC ("Walmart.com"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Wal-Mart Stores, is a Delaware company with its headquarters at 7000 Marina Boulevard, Brisbane, California 94005. It is the online component of Defendant Wal-Mart Stores. Prior to the conspiracy alleged herein, Walmart.com competed with Netflix in the Online DVD Rental Market through the "Walmart DVD Rentals" service. While its financials are not publicly reported by Wal-Mart Stores, Walmart.com is ranked as the 14th largest online retailer in the United States. Through the website, www.walmart.com, Walmart.com sold and continues to sell DVDs directly to consumers nationwide. Consumers who purchase DVDs via www.walmart.com may have them mailed or otherwise delivered to them directly, or may pick them up at a Wal-Mart Stores retail location via Walmart.com's and Wal-Mart Stores' "Site to Store" program.

16. Walmart.com and Wal-Mart Stores are fully integrated, operate as a single commercial enterprise, and hold themselves out to the public as one entity. Walmart.com is an internet sales channel for Wal-Mart Stores; it is not operated as an independent business entity. Wal-Mart Stores is the registrant of the domain names of www.walmart.com, which is used to sell products and services by Walmart.com, and the domain name of www.walmartdvdrentals.com. Wal-Mart Stores' Chief

Marketing Officer John Fleming has explained the relationship between Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com as follows: "Wal-Mart Stores set up Walmart.com as a separate company with some outside investors, but within six months Wal-Mart Stores bought back the outside interest and Walmart.com; Walmart.com now serves as a 'marketing channel' for Wal-Mart Stores."

17. Any reference in this Complaint to an act, deed, or transaction of any corporation means that the corporation engaged in the act, deed, or transaction by or through its officers, directors, agents, employees, or representatives while they were actively engaged in the management, direction, control, or transaction of the corporation's business affairs.

INTERSTATE TRADE AND COMMERCE

18. The trade and commerce relevant to this action are the sales and rentals of DVDs in the United States.

19. During the Class Period, Plaintiff and members of the Class throughout the United States purchased and/or rented DVDs directly from Defendants.

20. Defendants' conduct has taken place within the flow of, and substantially affected the interstate commerce of, the United States. Specifically, during the Class Period, Defendants have sold and/or rented DVDs throughout the United States, involving hundreds of millions or billions of dollars in interstate commerce, and used the instrumentalities of interstate commerce, including interstate wires and the U.S. mail, to sell and/or to rent DVDs throughout the United States.

THE ONLINE DVD RENTAL MARKET

21. "DVD", as defined herein, refers to a Digital Video Disc or a Blu-ray Disc containing commercially recorded entertainment programs for personal viewing. DVDs are the primary medium by which movies and other recorded entertainment are distributed in the United States. Revenues on DVDs far exceed those generated from box office receipts. In addition, DVDs have become a particularly lucrative means for the distribution of previously-aired television programs, surpassing even television syndication rights as a revenue stream in many instances. As defined herein, "DVD" does not refer to blank Digital Video Discs, which are used to store or record data.

22. While Defendants' market allocation is *per se* illegal and requires no market definition, for any claims that may require a market definition, the relevant market is the market for the rental of DVDs online by subscription for delivery by mail ("Online DVD Rental Market").

23. In the Online DVD Rental Market, consumers pay a monthly subscription fee to an online service provider, such as Netflix, Blockbuster Online, or (before May 19, 2005) Walmart DVD Rentals, in order to rent DVDs. There are no late fees or due dates, but within any given plan, the consumer pays the subscription fee regardless of how many DVDs he or she rents per month. Thus, even a consumer who does not rent a DVD for months still is charged the subscription fee; Netflix CEO Reed Hastings calls this the "gym membership effect."

24. To rent DVDs, consumers go to the provider's website and list the DVDs they wish to rent in the order of preference in an online rental "queue". Online DVD rental providers have expansive arrays of DVDs for consumers to choose from. The library of titles available from online service providers has grown over time, now ranging near 100,000 DVDs, often twenty to one hundred times the selection of titles stocked at any single video rental store.

25. When a DVD is available, it is sent via U.S. mail to the consumer's home. Consumers return the DVD to the provider via U.S. mail in a prepaid envelope and then receive the next DVD in their queue.

26. The Online DVD Rental Market is distinct from the traditional in-store DVD rental market, and the two services are not reasonably interchangeable. With traditional in-store DVD rentals, consumers must drive to the store, hope the DVD they want is in stock, pay for the DVD on a per-DVD basis, and return the DVD within the allocated time frame or incur late fees. During the Class Period, these late fees have accounted for as much as 20% of the revenues in the traditional in-store DVD rental market. In contrast, there are no late fees or due dates in the Online DVD Rental Market.

27. Other factors differentiating the Online DVD Rental Market from other forms of DVD rental, such as in-store, kiosk, or video downloading, include:

a. Pricing. In the Online DVD Rental Market, consumers generally pay a monthly subscription, which is independent from the number of DVDs the consumers actually rents in a month. In contrast, in other forms of DVD rentals, the consumer usually pays for each individual DVD rental. Consequently, changes in the price of online rentals do not closely track changes in the price of in-store or other forms of rental. Furthermore, the pricing of online rentals is generally nationwide in scope and is not affected by local in-store prices and competition. As a result, the pricing of online rentals would generally be the same to a consumer, regardless of whether the nearest rental store is two minutes or two hours away.

b. Online DVD Rental Offers Additional Services. Online DVD rental providers generally offer additional services, such as movie reviews, customer-specific recommendations based on viewing and preference history, and other metrics of popularity.

c. Online DVD Rental is Functionally Unique. Online rentals fundamentally differ from in-store rentals in that they: (1) do not require travel to a store, (2) are available to anyone with a postal address, regardless of proximity to a store, (3) are primarily subscription-based services, and (4) provide a much wider selection of titles than a traditional rental store. Online DVD rental may be preferred to kiosk rental or downloading for a number of reasons, including relative selection and convenience for consumers, pricing, and, from the supply perspective, licensing considerations and technological limitations.

d. Market Recognition. The online rental market is recognized as a distinct market by the public and the industry, including by Defendants. For instance, a Netflix executive recently told the *Wall Street Journal* that other types of rental services, such as kiosk and in-store rentals, do not present a direct competitive threat to Netflix. That same executive acknowledged that while video downloads may be a competitive force in the future, DVD will be the dominant medium for years to come, making the entry of this technology not timely enough to be considered a competitive force in the Online DVD Rental Market. Netflix CEO Reed Hastings has observed that the competitive threat of internet downloading to online DVD rental during the Class Period is like that of hydrogen powered cars to gasoline powered cars — inconsequential for many years to come. He has further explained that DVDs will be the dominant medium for movies for perhaps as long as the gasoline engine.

28. The Online DVD Rental Market is also distinct from the market for DVD sales. The pricing of DVDs for retail sale and online DVD rentals is very different. Factors differentiating the Online DVD Rental Market from the new DVD sales market include:

a. Pricing. As discussed above, consumers who subscribe to online DVD rental services generally pay a monthly subscription fee. This fee does not vary based on the whether the consumer is renting popular or obscure DVDs. In contrast, the price of DVDs for sale is heavily based on how popular the DVD is, including whether it is a new release or how successful the title originally was at the box office or on television.

b. Market Recognition. The industry and the public perceive the Online DVD Rental Market as a separate and distinct market from the new DVD sales market.

c. Different Purposes. The factors motivating a consumer to buy a DVD are different from those leading a consumer to rent a DVD. Consumers generally rent DVDs when they intend to view the DVD once; consumers buy a DVD when they intend to watch it multiple times. DVD rentals are also of no use to consumers who want to give a DVD as a gift or wish to collect DVDs.

d. Distinguishing Characteristics. DVDs sold at retail have other distinguishing characteristics, such as packaging and special features that are not available with rentals. Online rentals are sent in plain envelopes containing little information other than the title and a brief description of the DVD. Moreover, whether a DVD is new or used is not an issue in rental, but it is a significant factor in sales. Used DVDs are sold at a significant discount to their new counterparts because they are relatively less desirable to consumers.

29. Because the Online DVD Rental Market is distinct from the markets for other forms of rental or sales, there is little cross-elasticity of demand between these products and therefore

significant non-transitory increases in price do not cause consumers to switch from one market to another.

30. The geographic market for the Online DVD Rental Market is the United States. The practical reality is that, among other things, shipping costs and trans-global differences in DVD data encoding make it neither practical nor feasible for entities located in other countries to rent DVDs to U.S. consumers.

31. Netflix dominated the Online DVD Rental Market at all times relevant to this complaint. Netflix's approximate market share of the Online DVD Rental Market is 75%, making it the clear market leader. As a result of this market share, Netflix has had, and continues to have, market and monopoly power in the Online DVD Rental Market. It has the power to control prices or exclude competition in this market.

32. Since implementation of the Market Division Agreement, discussed in detail *infra*, the Online DVD Rental Market has been overwhelmingly comprised of only two firms: Netflix and Blockbuster Online. Netflix controls approximately 75% of the Online DVD Rental Market; Blockbuster Online possesses nearly all of the remaining 25% of the market. A few minor firms share less than 1-2% of the market. During fiscal years 2005 through 2007 combined, Netflix earned nearly $4 billion in revenues and $1.3 billion in gross profit from renting DVDs to consumers—a margin of more than 33%.

33. There have been no significant market entrants in the more than three years since the announcement of the Market Division Agreement, which increased those barriers. Online DVD rental is highly capital intensive. A firm must operate on a large scale to be successful. It requires the possession of a significant number of shipping facilities strategically located throughout the United States to ensure timely delivery. It also requires stocking an extensive inventory of DVDs to maintain the selection of titles that consumers demand. As Netflix CEO Reed Hastings has observed, "When you think about the barriers to entry to this business, it is subtle because it appears easy. A kid can open a website. But the barriers to profitability are very large."

34. Wal-Mart Stores and its wholly-owned subsidiary Walmart.com dominate the new DVD sales market. Together they hold an industry-leading 40% of the domestic DVD sales market.

During fiscal years 2005-2008 combined, they earned revenues in excess of $25 billion by selling DVDs to consumers. Both Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com benefit from the Market Division Agreement.

ANTICOMPETITIVE CONDUCT

35. Competition in the Online DVD Rental Market was heating up in 2004 and 2005. The market was composed of three major competitors: Netflix, Blockbuster Online, and Walmart DVD Rentals. With increasing competition from Blockbuster Online, a new competitor, Netflix stock prices dropped precipitously.

36. In mid-2004, Netflix was charging $21.99 for its most popular subscription rental plan. When Blockbuster Online entered the Online DVD Market in August 2004, it was charging only $19.99 for a comparable plan, and by November 2004, it reduced its price further to $17.49. Walmart DVD Rentals followed suit and reduced the price on its comparable plan from $18.86 to $17.36. Faced with increasing competition, soon thereafter, Netflix reduced its prices by nearly 20% to $17.99 per month.

37. The price wars continued, and Blockbuster Online further decreased its price to $14.99. This was 20% below Netflix's already-reduced price and more than 40% below the price Netflix had been charging only months earlier. Not to be under-priced, Walmart DVD Rentals reduced its price to $12.97 on January 7, 2005. As prices decreased, so did profits.

38. At the same time competition was increasing in the Online DVD Rental Market, competition was also increasing in the new DVD sales market. Defendants Wal-Mart Stores and its wholly-owned subsidiary Walmart.com, which had established themselves as the leaders in new DVD sales, were facing increasing competition from in-store and online channels of distribution in new DVD sales, including competition from Amazon.com.

39. While not yet in the new DVD sales market, Netflix posed a serious threat to Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com. Netflix had a subscriber base of millions of consumers who were known in the industry to be prolific DVD buyers, and the sales and profits of Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com stood to suffer if Netflix began selling new DVDs to these consumers. If, however, Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com were able to persuade Netflix subscribers to buy their DVDs from

Wal-Mart, then Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com stood to gain market share, and additional sales and profits.

40. Defendants were well-aware that competition in both the Online DVD Rental Market and new DVD sales market was not good for them. Netflix Chairman and CEO Reed Hastings took action. Faced with increasing competition and decreasing profits, Hastings invited Walmart.com's CEO John Fleming to dinner to discuss their DVD sales and rental businesses.

41. Fleming, who reported directly to Walmart Stores' CEO Lee Scott, accepted the invitation, and the two met in January 2005. At the time of this meeting, Netflix and Walmart.com were direct competitors. Both competed in the online DVD rental business and Netflix had the potential to compete directly with Walmart.com and Wal-Mart stores in the DVD sales business.

42. This meeting marked the beginning of Defendants' conspiracy to reduce competition in both markets. Defendants' contract, combination, and conspiracy was ultimately reflected in their Market Division Agreement.

43. On May 5, 2005, in Netflix's First Quarter earnings call with financial analysts—held after the January dinner, but only two weeks before the public announcement of the Market Division Agreement—Hastings made plain the motive for Netflix to conspire with Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com:

> In terms of profitability over the coming years, the key issue is the number of major competitors. If there are only two major players, Blockbuster and Netflix, the profitability may be substantial like other two-firm entertainment markets. If, on the other hand, Amazon, Wal-Mart, Blockbuster and Netflix are all major competitors in online rental, then the profits would likely be small.

Hastings went on to "predict" on that conference call:

> [T]he likely case is [that] online rental becomes a two-firm market over the coming years.

44. On May 19, 2005, shortly after Fleming had been promoted to Chief Marketing Officer of Wal-Mart Stores, Defendants issued a joint press release that revealed the existence of the Market Division Agreement, by which they unlawfully divided and allocated the markets for DVD sales and rentals, and did, in fact, create the two-firm market that Hastings "predicted".

45. Under Defendants' Market Division Agreement, Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com agreed to exit the Online DVD Rental Market in order to stop competing with Netflix in that market, and in return, Netflix agreed to not enter the new DVD sales market and instead promote the DVD sales of Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com.

46. Both Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com are directly implicated in the illegal Market Division Agreement because, at the time of the announcement of the Market Division Agreement, Fleming was acting not only in his capacity as an executive responsible for overseeing Walmart.com, but also as the Chief Marketing Officer of Wal-Mart Stores. Furthermore, in a letter submitted to the court in a prior antitrust case brought against Netflix by other plaintiffs for other alleged violations of law, an assistant general counsel for Wal-Mart Stores, referring specifically to Wal-Mart Stores, wrote of "Wal-Mart's decision to discontinue renting DVDs." And it was Wal-Mart Stores, not Walmart.com, that issued the press release announcing the Market Division Agreement. In the press release, Wal-Mart Stores stated that Walmart.com's DVD sales are in fact Wal-Mart Stores' "online movie sales business," and that, more generally, Wal-Mart Stores' "[o]nline merchandise sales are available at www.walmart.com."

47. Defendants' agreement did not go unnoticed. Several newspapers and other publications reported on the agreement. Titles of these articles sum up the public's reaction: "Wal-Mart and Netflix: An Alliance;" "Wal-Mart and Netflix Scratch Each Other's Backs;" "Truce in DVD-Rental Wars;" "Wal-Mart Teams with Netflix;" and "Wal-Mart Loves Netflix: And Vice-Versa."

48. Defendants subsequently followed through on their agreement. Beginning on May 19, 2005, Walmart.com, exited the online rental business and encouraged its subscribers to transfer to Netflix. Walmart.com prominently placed a link to the Netflix website on its website, encouraging Walmart.com subscribers to transfer their subscriptions to Netflix. Defendants even offered Walmart.com subscribers the chance to lock in their current lower Walmart.com subscription rates for up to one year if they transferred their subscriptions to Netflix. Netflix, in return, encouraged its subscribers to buy their DVDs from Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com, both online and in mailers sent to its subscribers.

49. Since the date of their joint announcement on May 19, 2005 (apart from the thirty days that Walmart.com used to wind down its existing online rental business), neither Walmart.com nor Wal-Mart Stores has participated in the Online DVD Rental Market, nor has Netflix entered the new DVD sales market.

50. Defendant's Market Division Agreement eliminated Walmart.com from the Online DVD Rental Market, and thereby eliminated Walmart.com's downward pricing pressure and created a two-competitor market.

51. Absent the Market Division Agreement, Netflix would have had to lower its prices no later than May 19, 2005. However, with competition reduced, both Blockbuster Online and Netflix quickly increased their prices. In July 2005, Blockbuster Online raised its subscription price from $14.99 to $17.99 per month, matching Netflix's price.

52. In Netflix's next earnings call, on August 8, 2005, Hastings boasted: "Last quarter we said online rental was shaping up to be a two-player market, and that is indeed what is happening."

53. Defendants would not have entered into their Market Division Agreement absent an illegal, anticompetitive agreement not to compete. The agreement was not in the independent self-interest of Wal-Mart Stores, Walmart.com, or Netflix. For instance, absent an agreement from Netflix to avoid competing with Wal-Mart on new DVD sales, neither Wal-Mart Stores nor Walmart.com would have wanted Walmart.com to withdraw from the Online DVD Rental Market, encourage its subscribers to be transferred to Netflix, or promote Netflix's rental business. Likewise, absent an agreement from Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com to exit the Online DVD Rental Market, Netflix would have had no incentive to foreclose its opportunities to enter the new DVD sales market, as Netflix's millions of subscribers purchased an average twenty-five (25) DVDs per year each, a substantial market opportunity.

ANTITRUST INJURY TO PLAINTIFF AND THE CLASS

54. Defendants' illegal, anticompetitive Market Division Agreement has, among others things:

a. eliminated one of only three significant competitors in the Online DVD Rental Market;

b. eliminated competition between Defendants;

c. enabled Netflix to acquire and maintain market and monopoly power in the Online DVD Rental Market; and

d. enabled Netflix to implement and maintain monopolistic and supra-competitive pricing in the Online DVD Rental Market.

55. During the Class Period, as a result of the alleged violations of the antitrust laws described herein, Plaintiff and the Class paid supracompetitive prices for monthly subscription fees to Netflix, higher than the prices they would have paid in the absence of the illegal contract, combination, or conspiracy. This is an antitrust injury of the type that the antitrust laws were meant to punish and prevent.

56. The specific amounts of damages have not yet been determined because such determination will require discovery.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

57. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on her own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly situated. The "Class" is defined as:

> Any person in the United States who paid a subscription fee to Netflix to rent DVDs at any time from at least May 19, 2005 to the present.
>
> The Class specifically excludes Defendants; their officers, directors, or employees; their subsidiaries, affiliates, or any other entity over which they have a controlling interest; any co-conspirators; and any affiliate, legal representative, heir, or assign of any Defendant; any federal, state or local governmental entities; any judicial officer presiding over this action and the members of his/her immediate family and judicial staff; and any juror assigned to this action.

58. The members of the Class are so numerous and geographically dispersed across the country that joinder of all members of the Class would be impracticable. Due to the nature of the claims asserted here, Plaintiff believes that members of the Class are located throughout the United States. The exact number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time, but Plaintiff believes that the Class is in the millions and their identities can only be discovered through inspection of Defendants' records, which are or should be readily available.

59. Plaintiff is a member of the Class. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of all members of the Class because Plaintiff and all members of the Class were damaged by the same

wrongful conduct of Defendants alleged herein. Plaintiff and the Class paid a subscription fee to Netflix directly, which was artificially maintained at non-competitive prices established by the actions of Defendants in connection with the wrongful conduct alleged herein.

60. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class. The interests of Plaintiff are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, those of the Class. In addition, Plaintiff is represented by counsel who is experienced and competent in the prosecution of complex class action antitrust litigation.

61. Questions of law and fact common to the members of the Class predominate over any questions that may affect only individual members. Among the questions of law and fact common to the Class are:

a. Whether Defendants engaged in a contract, combination, or conspiracy to allocate markets;

b. Whether Defendants unreasonably restrained trade in the Online DVD Rental Market;

c. Whether Defendants intended for Netflix to monopolize the Online DVD Rental Market;

d. What are the nature and character of the acts performed by Defendants in the furtherance of the alleged contract, combination or conspiracy;

e. Whether the alleged contract, combination, and conspiracy violated Section 1 of the Sherman Act;

f. Whether the alleged contract, combination, and conspiracy violated Section 2 of the Sherman Act;

g. Whether Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class;

h. Whether Defendants' conduct caused Netflix subscription fees to be higher than they otherwise would have been and thereby caused injury to the Plaintiff and other members of the Class; and

i. What is the appropriate measure of damages sustained by Plaintiff and other members of the Class.

62. Class action treatment is superior to the alternatives, if any, for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy alleged herein. Such treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Class treatment will also permit the adjudication of relatively small claims by certain class members who could not afford to individually litigate an antitrust claim against large corporate defendants. No class member has an interest in individually controlling the prosecution of separate actions. Furthermore, concentrating the litigation in this forum, where two of the defendants reside and a substantial portion of the affected interstate trade and commerce described herein has been carried out, is also desirable.

63. In addition, prosecuting separate actions by individual class members would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual class members that would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants.

64. The Class is readily definable and is one for which records likely exist in the files of Defendants.

65. Plaintiff is not aware of any difficulties that are likely to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

COUNT I

VIOLATION OF SECTION 1 OF THE SHERMAN ACT
Illegal Market Allocation
Against All Defendants

66. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations above and re-alleges each as though fully set forth herein.

67. Defendants have entered into *a per se* illegal market division agreement in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §1.

68. Even if evaluated under the Rule of Reason, the Market Division Agreement is an unreasonable restraint of trade in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §1.

69. Prior to and at the time of the agreement, Netflix, Walmart.com and Wal-Mart Stores (through Walmart.com) were actual competitors in the Online DVD Rental Market. In addition, Netflix, Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com were potential competitors in the new DVD sales market. Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com were actual participants in the new DVD sales market and Netflix was a potential participant with the means and economic incentive to sell new DVDs — in the absence of the Market Division Agreement.

70. Defendants entered into and engaged in a contract, combination, or conspiracy, beginning at least as early as May 19, 2005, designed to achieve the unlawful objective of dividing the markets for online DVD rentals and new DVD sales. The Market Division Agreement allocated the Online DVD Rental Market to Netflix, with Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com agreeing not to compete in the Online DVD Rental Market. The agreement also allocated new DVD sales to Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com, with Netflix agreeing to refrain from selling new DVDs and therefore agreeing not to compete with Wal-Mart Stores or Walmart.com in the new DVD sales market. In addition to explicitly or *de facto* agreeing not to sell new DVDs, Netflix also obtained the Market Division Agreement by providing potentially valuable promotion to Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com. In so doing, Netflix provided significant consideration to Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com for their agreement that Walmart.com would withdraw from, and both Walmart.com and Wal-Mart Stores would not compete in, the Online DVD Rental Market.

71. The Market Division Agreement has created significant anticompetitive effects and no pro-competitive benefits. It eliminated competition in the Online DVD Rental Market, and resulted in consumers paying increased prices. To the extent that there are any pro-competitive benefits at all resulting from the agreement, they would not outweigh the agreement's anticompetitive effects. In any event, to the extent that there were any pro-competitive benefits, they could have been achieved by less restrictive means.

72. As a proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages in an amount not presently known, by their paying supracompetitive prices for Netflix subscriptions that they would not have had to pay but for the unlawful conduct of Defendants as alleged herein.

COUNT II

VIOLATION OF SECTION 2 OF THE SHERMAN ACT
Conspiracy to Monopolize the Online DVD Rental Market
Against All Defendants

73. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations above and re-alleges each as though fully set forth herein.

74. Prior to and at the time of the Market Division Agreement, Netflix, Walmart.com and Wal-Mart Stores (through Walmart.com) were actual competitors in the Online DVD Rental Market.

75. Defendants knew that the natural and probable consequence of the Market Division Agreement would be the monopolization of the Online DVD Rental Market by Netflix.

76. Beginning at least as early as May 19, 2005, Defendants entered into, complied with, and implemented the Market Division Agreement.

77. Defendants thereby created a contract, combination or conspiracy with the specific intent, knowledge and purpose that their anticompetitive agreement would result in Netflix acquiring and maintaining a monopoly in the Online DVD Rental Market.

78. As a proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages in an amount not presently known, by their paying supracompetitive prices for Netflix subscriptions that they would not have had to pay but for the unlawful conduct of Defendants as alleged herein.

COUNT III

VIOLATION OF SECTION 2 OF THE SHERMAN ACT
Monopolization of the Online DVD Rental Market
Against Netflix

79. Netflix has monopoly power in the Online DVD Rental Market.

80. Netflix willfully acquired and maintained its monopoly in the Online DVD Rental Market by its acts and practices described herein, including by executing, implementing, and otherwise complying with the Market Division Agreement, in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §2.

81. As a proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages in an amount not presently known, by their paying supracompetitive prices for

Netflix subscriptions that they would not have had to pay but for the unlawful conduct of Defendants as alleged herein.

COUNT IV

VIOLATION OF SECTION 2 OF THE SHERMAN ACT
Attempt to Monopolize the Online DVD Rental Market
Against Netflix

82. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations above and re-alleges each as though fully set forth herein.

83. If Netflix does not already have monopoly power, then Netflix has a dangerous probability of success in achieving monopoly power in the Online DVD Rental Market.

84. With the specific intent to achieve a monopoly, Netflix, by its acts and practices described herein, including by executing, implementing, and otherwise complying with the Market Division Agreement, has attempted to monopolize the Online DVD Rental Market, in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §2.

85. As a proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages in an amount not presently known, by their paying supracompetitive prices for Netflix subscriptions that they would not have had to pay but for the unlawful conduct of Defendants as alleged herein.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that:

A. The Court determine that this action may be maintained as a class action under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that Plaintiff be appointed class representative, and that Plaintiff's counsel be appointed as counsel for the Class;

B. The unlawful combination and conspiracy alleged herein be adjudged and decreed to be an unreasonable restraint of trade in violation of Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1-2;

C. The Court declare the Market Division Agreement between Defendants announced May 19, 2005, to be unlawful and null and void;

D. Judgment be entered for Plaintiff and the Class and against Defendants, jointly and severally, for compensatory and treble damages;

E. Plaintiff and the Class recover their costs of this suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees, expert fees, and accountants' fees, as provided by law;

F. Plaintiff and the Class be awarded pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the highest legal rate to the extent provided by law;

G. Defendants, their affiliates, successors, transferees, assignees, and the officers, directors, partners, agents, and employees thereof, and all other persons acting or claiming to act on their behalf, be permanently enjoined and restrained from, in any manner, continuing, maintaining, or renewing the contract, combination, or conspiracy alleged herein, or from engaging in any other contract, combination, or conspiracy having similar purpose or effect, and from adopting or following any practice, plan, program, or device having a similar purpose or effect, pursuant to Section 16 of the Clayton Antitrust Act of 1914,15 U.S.C. §29; and

H. Plaintiff and the Class be granted such additional relief as the nature of the case may require or as may seem just and proper to this Court.

JURY DEMAND

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b) and otherwise, Plaintiff respectfully demands a trial by jury.

Dated: February 17, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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